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STATUTE ON THE MAIN ADMINISTRATION OF GEODESY
AND CARTOGRAPHY UNDER THE COUNCIL OF PEOPLE'S COMMISSARS USSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

The statute of 23 August 1939 on the Main Administration of Geodesy and
Cartography under the Council of People's Commissars USSR provides that:

1. The Main Administration will carry out the following general tasks:
 - a. Creation of a state geodetic base and a state topographic map of the USSR.
 - b. Satisfaction of national economic, scientific, and cultural-educational requirements for modern general and specialized political, administrative, physico-geographic, economic, and educational maps and atlases.
 - c. Exercise of state geodetic supervision and control over departmental topographic-geodetic and cartographic work.
2. The Main Administration is charged with the following specific duties:
 - a. Production of geodetic and survey work of general state significance: triangulations and astronomic calculations of the first and second classes, leveling instrument work of the first and second orders, basic gravimetric work, and topographic surveys in scale 1:25,000 and smaller.
 - b. Compilation and publication of general and specialized topographic, political, administrative, physico-geographic, economic, and educational maps, the Great Soviet World Atlas, and other atlases.

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c. Reviews of and decisions regarding plans of departments and organizations for geodetic and surveying work, which have significance for mapping of USSR territory (aerial surveys in all scales; topographic surveys in scale 1:10,000 and smaller, made of areas greater than 100 square kilometers in size; triangulation and leveling instrument work done on areas of the same size or with a length greater than 50 kilometers).

d. Exercise of state control over the performance and quality of the topographic-geodetic and surveying work indicated in (c) done by all departments and organizations except the People's Commissariat of Defense USSR and the People's Commissariat of the Navy USSR.

e. Approval of scales for topographic surveys of individual parts of the USSR.

f. Coordination of all topographic-geodetic, aerial survey, gravimetric, and cartographic work done in the USSR; collection, systematization, and preservation of all topographic-geodetic, aerial survey, gravimetric, and cartographic materials pertaining to work indicated in (c); provision of information to all interested organizations concerning completed projects and available materials.

g. Utilization of all geodetic and survey materials received in the country for mapping of the USSR.

h. Creation and correction, on the basis of latest cartographic materials, of maps in scale 1:1,000,000 or smaller, required as geographic bases for special maps compiled by departments and organizations.

i. Approval of topographic-geodetic and geographic maps which are to serve as bases of special maps and atlases to be compiled by all departments and organizations; issuance of decisions on publication of all maps and atlases. (1)
[This section was rescinded by a subsequent decree. (2)]

j. Formulation and issuance of generally binding rules and instructions for the performance of topographic-geodetic, aerial survey, gravimetric, and cartographic work listed in (a) and (c) and the use of conventional signs; review and approval of instructions issued by departments and organizations concerning work performance and use of signs.

k. Establishment of a uniform method of transcription of geographic names, which is to be used in all cartographic publications in the USSR.

l. Training of cadres for topographic, geodetic, aerial survey, gravimetric, and cartographic work.

m. Organization and implementation of scientific research work in the fields of geodesy, topography, aerial surveying, and cartography.

n. Administration of all educational and scientific research institutions under the supervision of the Main Administration.

o. Organization of material and technical supply of production enterprises and institutions under the Main Administration; organization of sales of cartographic production.

p. Organization of production of geodetic, gravimetric, and aerial surveying instruments needed to perform the work of the Main Administration.

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q. Supervision and control over the capital construction of institutions and enterprises under the Main Administration.

3. The Main Administration is granted the following rights:

a. To convene at least annually conferences of representatives of interested departments, organizations, and scientific institutions on questions of geodesy, topography, cartography, and gravimetry.

b. To publish, in accordance with existing rules, dictionaries, catalogues, reviews, periodicals, and topographic-geodetic, aerial survey, gravimetric, and cartographic materials; to publish the periodical Geodezist.

c. To issue copyrights to authors and patents to inventors in the fields of geodesy and cartography.

4. Plotting of state boundaries of the USSR on the map is carried out by the Main Administration with the concurrence of the People's Commissariat of Foreign Affairs USSR.

5. The chief of the Main Administration is named by the Council of People's Commissars USSR. He has deputies, who are confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars USSR.

6. The chief supervises all activities of the Main Administration; within the limits of his authority, he issues orders and instructions on the basis of and in accordance with existing laws, decrees, and regulations of the Council of People's Commissars USSR and checks on their execution; he appoints and relieves the workers of the central apparatus of the Main Administration and the supervisors of institutions and enterprises under the Main Administration.

7. The Collegium of the Main Administration meets regularly under the chairmanship of the chief to review problems in practical supervision; it checks on execution of tasks, supervises selection of cadres, hears reports of workers from local organs, and formulates the most essential orders and instructions.

The membership of the Collegium is confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars USSR on recommendation of the chief of the Main Administration.

8. Decisions of the Collegium are carried out through orders issued by the chief of the Main Administration.

In case of a difference of opinion between the chief and Collegium, the chief carries out his decision, but brings the difference of opinion to the attention of the Council of People's Commissars USSR; the members of the Collegium may appeal the decision to the Council of People's Commissars USSR.

9. The Council of the Main Administration, the membership of which is confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars USSR on recommendation of the chief of the Main Administration, stands under the chief for purposes of contact with local organs and exchange of experience.

The Council meets once or twice monthly to hear and discuss reports concerning the most important problems in the work of the Main Administration.

10. The Main Administration has the following administrations, divisions, and other subdivisions:

Administration of Topographic-Geodetic Service

Administration of Cartographic Industry

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Administration of State Geodetic Control
Administration of Educational Institutions
Division of Supply (1)/subsequently raised to Administration of Supply (3)/
Division of Map Publication Control
Sales Division
Planning Division
Finance Division
Central Bookkeeping Office
Cadres Division
Labor and Wages Sector
Capital Construction Division
Transcription Bureau; (1)/subsequently raised to a higher level (3)/
Mobilization Division
Secret Division
Administrative Affairs Office
Secretariat

11. The Inspectorate, which is charged with checking on how the administrations and divisions of the Main Administration and all institutions and enterprises subordinated to it carry out party and government decrees, as well as the orders and instructions of the Main Administration, is placed under the chief of the Main Administration.

12. The Main Administration has representatives under the councils of people's commissars of the union republics, as well as under the oblast and kray executive committees in Leningrad, Novosibirsk, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Gor'kiy, Sverdlovsk, Kuybyshev, Saratov, and Voroshilovsk.

The sphere of activity of each of the representatives under the indicated oblast and kray executive committees is determined by the Main Administration.

13. The following organizations are under the direct supervision of the Main Administration on the basis of charters confirmed for them:

- a. Publishing House of Geodetic and Cartographic Literature
- b. Editorial staff of the periodical Geodezist

14. In accordance with established procedure, the Main Administration has the right to organize enterprises which will be of economic value.

15. Relations between the Main Administration and the People's Commissariat of Defense USSR and the People's Commissariat of the Navy USSR in regard to topographic-geodetic and cartographic work will be regulated by a special statute, confirmed by the Council of People's Commissars USSR.

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16. The chief of the Main Administration will regularly assemble the aktiv of the Main Administration to utilize the experience of its economic, scientific, and engineering-technical workers.(1)

SOURCES

1. "On the Confirmation of the Statute on the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography Under the Council of People's Commissars, 23 August 1939," Sobraniye postanovleniy i rasporyazheniy Pravitel'stva SSSR, No 50, Item 399, 1939
2. "On Partial Changes in the Statute on the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography Under the Council of People's Commissars, 16 September 1940," Sobraniye postanovleniy --, No 25, Item 609, 1940
3. "On Partial Changes in the Structure of the Main Administration of Geodesy and Cartography Under the Council of People's Commissars, 27 December 1940," Sobraniye postanovleniy --, No 1, Item 9, 1941

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